

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /039 W

----- 042127

R 170831Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7032

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2251

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP LA AS RP

SUBJECT: ARMED LAO SEIZE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PROPERTY IN WAREHOUSE
OWNED BY FILIPINO BUSINESSMAN

SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN CHARGE TOLD CHIEF POL SECTION THAT
ARMED LAO ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO SEIZED WAREHOUSE OWNED BY
FILIPINO BUSINESSMAN IN WHICH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PROPERTY STORED, AND THAT AUSTRALIANS HAD GOT BACK SOME
BUT NOT ALL OF THEIR PROPERTY. CHARGE SAID FILIPINO
EMBASSY HAD PROTESTED TO LPDR FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT
AUSTRALIANS HAD NOT AND WERE STILL TRYING TO GET
REMAINING PROPERTY BACK WITHOUT ESCALATING INCIDENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. AUSTRALIAN CHARGE CRUISE TOLD POL CHIEF THAT ARMED
LAO ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO SEIZED WAREHOUSE IN VIENTIANE
OWNED BY LOCAL FILIPINO BUSINESSMAN, PART OF WHICH WAS
USED TO STORE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PROPERTY. AUSTRALIANS
COMPLAINED TO THE LAO OCCUPYING THE WAREHOUSE AND
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EVENUALLY GOT BACK PROPERTY ON WHICH THEY HAD LAO

DOCUMENTS SHOWING IT HAD BEEN IMPORTED FOR DIPLOMATIC PURPOSES. THEY HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN GIVEN BACK OTHER PROPERTY WHICH ARRIVED IN EARLIER YEARS FOR WHICH THEY HAVE NO DUCUMENTATION.

2. CRUISE SAID EMBASSY WAS STILL TRYING TO FIND OUT WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF LAO OCCUPYING FORCE IN ORDER WORK MATTERS OUT AT LOW LEVEL WITHOUT ESCALATING IT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. IF THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO DO SO, HOWEVER, HE PLANNED TAKE MATTER UP WITH MINISTRY. FOREIGN MINISTRY IN CANBERRA HAS BEEN INFORMED, HE ADDED.

3. ACCORDING TO CRUISE, FILIPINO MINISTER-COUNSELOR FERIA HAS PROTESTED TO LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT SEIZURE OF PROPERTY OF FILIPINO NATIONAL, APPARENTLY SO FAR WITHOUT RESULTS.

4. COMMENT: THE AUSTRALIANS ARE PLAYING THIS ONE VERY GENTLY, PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY WANT TO PROTECT THEIR INVESTMENT IN NEW SPORTS COMPLEX, INCLUDING OLYMPIC SIZE POOL AND SQUASH COURT, SCHEDULED TO OPEN SEPTEMBER 26.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PROPERTY PROTECTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, EMBASSIES
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Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760352-0778
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARMED LAO SEIZE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PROPERTY IN WAREHOUSE OWNED BY FILIPINO BUSINESSMAN SUMMARY:
AUSTRALIAN CHARGE TOLD CHIEF POL SECTION
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, LA, AS, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006